

CLARKSVILLE WEEKLY CHRONICLE.

R. H. YANCEY, Editor.

A GOOD ROUTE FOR A NEW RAILROAD.

Col. Robert Gates of Jackson, who is engaged in working up the Ohio Valley railroad project, has been talking to reporters of Memphis and Nashville papers concerning this enterprise and has pointed out that it is a bigger thing than it is generally known to be.

Col. Gates says the capitalists who are backing the Ohio Valley route, contemplate an extensive system of roads that will reach out in several directions and ramify, as it were, the entire South. The main stem of the road, as at present projected, is from Henderson on the Ohio river, to Jackson, Tenn. From thence Col. Gates thinks the road will push on through Memphis to the far Southwest.

Another connection which he contemplates, and which is material to this section, is a branch to Birmingham and probably to the gulf. This branch he says, will go from Princeton, Ky., through Clarksville, or from Jackson, Tenn., via Sheffield, Ala. Col. Gates very naturally inclines to the Jackson route, but alleges nothing better in its behalf than easy grades. To our way of looking at things, the Clarksville route would be incomparably better.

Col. Gates may be talking for effect; it is his business to work up the Ohio Valley railroad and the bigger thing he can make it appear, the more enthusiasm he can awaken in its behalf.

But while we take his interviews *cum grano*, it is a fact that the Ohio Valley railroad is being built from Henderson to Jackson and that it is backed by men with money. This fact is important enough to make it worth the while of Clarksville to press on the projectors of the enterprise the advantages of a Southern extension through this city.

There is no better place for a railroad on the map of the United States, than from Henderson to Pensacola, through Clarksville, Sheffield and Birmingham. It would make almost a bee line, and the shortest possible route from the lakes to the gulf, from Chicago to Pensacola. It would penetrate the very heart of the Southern coal and iron region, from beginning to end, besides passing through some very fine agricultural sections.

After leaving the Kentucky coal fields it would pass through mineral lands all the way South from Clarksville to Birmingham.

At Pensacola it would strike the finest harbor on the gulf coast. That city is more than anxious for a road giving it cheap rates and direct connection with the Alabama coal country. When it has such transportation facilities it will become a coaling station of no small importance, as steamships of any size can easily anchor in its harbor. The present lumber trade of Pensacola is also a big thing to be considered.

A very important feeder for such a road would be the Clarksville tobacco market, which now ranks second only to that of Louisville. It is a reasonable calculation that the shipments of tobacco from this place this year and in all future years will be from 35,000 to 40,000 hhds.

The grain of Kentucky and the cotton of lower Alabama, would both add to the business the road would do.

The iron lands in Tennessee that the road would pass through, are not altogether undeveloped. The Cumberland furnace only twenty miles South of Clarksville is in successful and profitable operation and the same can be said of the Warner furnace and several others South of Dickson Station.

A considerable portion of the line over which it is proposed to build this road, is already occupied by short roads that could be absorbed and utilized by the through route and the expense of construction thus cheapened. We refer to the narrow gauge road running from this place 30 miles north, the one from Dickson Station 50 miles South and the partially completed road from Sheffield to Birmingham.

The proposed railroad would make rectangular connection with several other important lines and rivers. At Sheffield it would have easy access by rail and river to Chattanooga. It's nearest competing lateral lines would be the Montgomery division of the L. & N. on the East and the Mobile & Ohio on the West. The L. & N. would be the most active competitor, the only one, in fact, worth considering, but the new road would have the advantage of penetrating the mineral lands of North Alabama and Tennessee which the L. & N. only skirts or does not touch, and would be the shortest route.

Considering all these things it does seem to us that capitalists who are hunting for places to build railroads couldn't select a more favorable route than this.

The Benton county Democrats in convention assembled instructed their delegates to vote for Bob Taylor for governor. They are Benton making a family fight of the coming election.

WHAT DOES THE AMERICAN SAY?

Our very esteemed Nashville contemporary, the American, is somewhat indignant at being accused of opposition to all public education, State or National, and says it has "repeatedly denied the truth of all such groundless insinuations."

Notwithstanding the cholera our contemporary shows when pricked in this regard, it ignores and refuses to answer a plain question when by so doing it would put its position clear and show its real friendship or enmity to public schools.

We take it as conceded that Tennessee public schools are not what they ought to be. We know no greater necessity the State suffers than that greater educational facilities be provided for children. The American is too squeamish in its State's rights notions to accept National aid for school purposes, will it advocate an increased State and county tax to show its friendliness to the cause of public education in Tennessee?

That's the question plain and pointed. It avails nothing to bluster in round terms about "repeated denials" and "groundless insinuations." Let our contemporary answer this question directly, and then what it says will bear evidence of the faith that is in it.

The white population of Tennessee is next to the most illiterate of that of any State in the Union, there being 18 per cent. of such population that can neither read nor write. Add this to the large negro population, over 50 per cent. of which is illiterate, and the state of affairs is not only humiliating and disgraceful but alarming.

The present public school system in Tennessee will not and cannot raise this black pall of illiteracy; the census figures of 1880 bear out the assertion. What does the American propose to do about it? It rejects a proffer of \$8,000,000 from the National treasury because forsooth National aid is out of accord with its State's rights ideas and the bill proposing the gift was introduced by a Republican.

There is but one alternative; it must advocate an increased State and county tax. If it does not we will repeat the charge that it is unfriendly to public education State or National and shall continue to say so until it proposes some practical plan by which Tennessee can be rid of her terrible and blighting illiteracy. What does the American say?

WHAT is the matter with the 6th Congressional District. In the remaining nine districts in the State candidates for congress are as plentiful as black birds, and making a lively fight for the nominations of their respective parties? But all is serene in the 6th District, no one has intimated that he would like to step into Mr. Caldwell's shoes or even so much as said that he was in the hands of his friends.

A NEW POET.

The dawn of a new literary era in the South has been noted with special pride by the people of this section. In *antebellum* times we had great statesmen and lawyers, but our literature languished and it is therefore gratifying when in these latter days, star after star arises from the Southern horizon and sheds its light over the literary world.

Cable, Craddock and Harris have each won fame as prose writers and now the CHRONICLE feels proud in being the first to announce the advent of a real live Southern poet—a genius genuine whose originality can not be questioned and whose tender and pathetic verses the divine afflatus fills and thrills.

The CHRONICLE publishing house has recently turned out a volume of poems by Mr. Frank N. Bell of Christian county, Kentucky, to which production the above remarks refer.

Mr. Bell's poems are mostly sentimental lyrics devoted to the charms of various young ladies on whom his affections have been bestowed. Some of them abound in very pleasing personal descriptions of which the following may be given as a sample:

"My sweetheart is as pretty as a pink,
Is what all the boys do think;
She has an eye keener than a wasp,
And her name is Miss Cecil."

The great strength and depth of the poet's attachment is forcibly given in the following couplet:

"I would be willing to travel through the rain,
Half and snow
If you would acknowledge me as your beau."

Then mark the impatient petulance of passion displayed in the following:

"But I want you to tell me right on the spot
Whether I may be your beau or not.
But do not say that silence gives consent,
Such an answer will not leave me content."

In the following Mr. Bell gracefully touches on a familiar experience with most young men who wait on the girls:

"The battle has been fought, the race has been run,
I paid the cost of all the fun,
Twenty-five dollars I did spend,
My little sweetheart to befriend,
So fare the well forever more,
May we meet on Canaan's shore."

The happy hereafter thus touchingly alluded to, is the place where church fairs cease from troubling and ice cream can't be had.

The CHRONICLE could not attempt to give an accurate idea of the insearchable riches and great beauty of these poems; they must be read to be appreciated. It only aims in a feeble

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way to point out some of the most striking passages.

Some of the poems have a deep religious vein running through them as evidenced in the following:

"Every dollar I do spend
I try my Savior to befriend,
But when on dancing women spent
Is it to Christ or Satan lent?"

The conundrum herein propounded is a fearful one, inasmuch as it involves the safety of a human soul, but see how our pious poet answers it:

"Before you danced my love was true,
But since you danced not so much love for you."

The following will no doubt be used with great effect by the temperance people:

"He heaped on me many a damn
Because I would not drink his dram;
He called me a long faced hypocrite
Because I would not in his grocery sit,
But I passed him by as if he had been a
braying mule,
For I looked on him as a drunken fool."

Mr. Bell seems to have been the victim of some scornful maiden's contumely, a sordid creature entirely unappreciative of genius, and thus describes her cruel treatment of him:

"She whom I considered as good as was on earth
Since the time of the Savior's birth,
In cool hatredness she did me slight,
I answered, by the grace of God all was right,
I afterwards heard that what she did she did
Not intending to give me trouble,
So I intended it should be like a mighty passing
bubble
Upon the mighty ocean's tide,
And the future I would entreat her to be
my bride.
So at her house one day I did call,
But in her estimation I had grown very small.
To her parlor she sent me a note,
Treating me as abjectly as if I had been a
goat.
Christians in the Bible are called sheep,
But ever such a one as you I will not weep.
So I retired from her parlor and never went
back,
She sent me the note by a girl that was an African
black,
But I am ready to bid her a long and peaceful
adieu,
There are others in the world as good as you,
I once thought my love for you was as strong
as an iron fetter
But I have found another that I can love better."

Those who have heard Mr. Bell read his poems say their beauty is greatly enhanced thereby. If he could be induced to give a public reading of them in Clarksville it would afford an entertainment both interesting and unique. Parties wishing to purchase "Bell's Poems" can do so by addressing the author at Peachers Mills, Tenn.

The poet Bell whose productions are noticed elsewhere in this paper, must not be confounded with Editor Bell of our local contemporary down the street. We make this statement for the benefit of the poet who would seriously object to such a confusion of names. The editor has been known to drop into poetry sometimes, but his effusions are all of the "saw-dust" or "cream-pot" kind and lack that touch of genius which marks his Kentucky namesake as one loved of the muses.

Puck's cartoon representing Ireland as Andronica chained to a rock on the sea shore and Gladstone as Perseus slaying the dragon that torments her, is spoiled by putting Perseus on a horse.

It violates the legend without any necessity for doing so.

The editor of the Bolivar Bulletin has been made Vice-President of a railroad company. Who will care for the dear people now?

THE Avalanche expresses our ideas on the tariff question when it says "the Democrats who voted against consideration of the Morrison bill in the face of the plain pledge of the Democratic platform can only justify themselves and avoid condemnation as Democrats by proposing themselves a tariff revision bill, subject to proper amendment."

Still we have no tears to shed over the defeat of the Morrison bill. We want to see the tariff revised, but don't want all the revision to be at the expense of the South. To place iron ore and lumber on the free list would be direct blows at two growing industries in this section. Free lumber would mean to let the resources of the South in that regard remain undeveloped for the benefit of British America.

A DISPATCH to the Avalanche from Sheffield, Ala., says "the city was brilliantly illuminated" on receipt of the news from Montgomery of the contract with Col. Easley and others, to finish the Birmingham & Sheffield railroad.

We suppose they tied a tallow candle to a fishing pole and stuck it up on the banks of the river.

THERE are mean things we could say about a number of prominent candidates for the Democratic nomination whom we would like to see defeated.

But then some one of them might get there and we would have to eat crow. Under the circumstances we will forego the pleasure it would give us to say the mean things.

THE Nashville American has the cheek to quote John Sherman on the Blair bill as a proof that it is a Republican measure, when the fact is that Sherman voted against and spoke against the bill. The very extract the American makes was uttered in opposition to the bill because it was not sufficiently Republican.

We call the attention of our esteemed neighbor across the street to the fact that the Banner still persists in calling it the "harmonicon".—Tobacco Leaf.

THE Banner and other papers that can't appreciate the music of the harmonicon, give it this bastard name to make it unpopular.

ED SHAW, colored, made a speech at a Republican meeting in Memphis the other night and pronounced himself in full sympathy with that party. Shaw is the good Democrat the Nashville American wanted Cleveland to reward with an office.

CLARKSVILLE real estate is in demand now and continually rising in price. Twenty-seven valuable lots known as the Weil property located near the L. & N. passenger depot are to be sold to-day. Parties wishing to invest in real estate will find this a first-class opportunity. For a description of the property see the advertisement elsewhere in this paper. They are good lots, well located for building sites.

Dissolution and Change of Firm.

The partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned having expired by limitation, the firm of CRUSMAN & HOWARD is hereby dissolved. J. J. Crusman of the new firm will attend to the liquidation of the business of the firm.

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E. M. HOWARD,
BRYCE STEWART,
Special Partner

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